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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for updating client computers with user specific application enablement, comprising:

creating a component control file which defines the enablement components needed to run applications on a client and the actions to be performed to install those components; and

creating an installation control file which lists the applications that have been assigned to a user and the components from the component control file which must be installed in order to execute those applications.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the applications are executed from a shared file server by a client.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the component control file is stored in a server.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the installation control file is stored in a server.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the installation control file is stored in a user-specific profile area in the server.

6. A method for updating client computers with user specific application enablement, comprising:

reading a user's installation control file which contains a list of the enablement components needed to

run the set of applications that have been assigned to the user; and

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein a client executes the applications from a shared file server.

9. The method according to claim 6, wherein the installation control file is stored in a user-specific profile in the server.

11. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for updating client computers with user specific application enablement, comprising:

instructions for creating an installation control file which lists the applications that have been assigned to a user and the components from the component control file which must be installed in order to execute those applications.

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12. The computer program product according to claim 11, wherein the applications are executed from a shared file server by a client.

13. The computer program product according to claim 11, wherein the component control file is stored on a server.

14. The computer program product according to claim 11, wherein the installation control file is stored on a server.

15. The computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the installation control file is stored in a user-specific profile area in the server.

16. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for updating client computers with user specific application enablement, comprising:

instructions for reading a user's installation control file which contains a list of the enablement components needed to run the set of applications that have been assigned to the user; and

instructions for installing the enablement components on a client operating system, if those components are not already installed.

17. The computer program product according to claim 16, wherein a client executes the applications from a shared file server.

18. The computer program product according to claim 16,

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wherein the installation control file is stored on a server.

19. The computer program product according to claim 16, wherein the installation control file is stored in a user-specific profile area in the server.

20. The computer program product according to claim 16, further comprising instructions for prompting the user before installing the enablement components.

21. A system having means for updating client computers with user specific application enablement, comprising:

means for creating a component control file which defines the enablement components needed to run applications on a client and the actions to be performed to install those components; and

means for creating an installation control file which lists the applications that have been assigned to a user and the components from the component control file which must be installed in order to execute those applications.

22. A system having means for updating client computers with user specific application enablement, comprising:

means for reading a user's installation control file which contains a list of the enablement components needed to run the set of applications that have been assigned to the user; and

means for installing the enablement components on a client operating system, if those components are not already installed.